



February 20, 2018

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Mayor Viczorek, Mayor Pro Tem Muller & Dana Point City Council:

I'm writing this letter in support of Item #23, the City of Dana Point transferring from At-Large to by-District City Council elections. I've lived under that form of City Government for much of my life and found it to be the best way for residents to Connect and Stay in Touch with their local elected officials.

There are many iterations of this way to elect a City Council. In San Juan Capistrano, after change, they retained the same number of City Councilors who are now voted for by District.

Among the many reasons to support Local City Council Districts rather than At Large Councilors are some I'm listing below:

- 1) Connect residents to elected officials and they may even know you and your family.
- 2) Ask any resident, "who is your City Councilor"? One person cannot be named.
- 3) Your City Councilor would hold regular meetings to address your District's concerns
- 4) You have one individual to contact directly
- 5) Your City Councilor would go to City Staff or Council meetings to bring your District's concerns to the largest audience where action can be taken.

Think of how direct our democracy would be, in fact, if an elected official is elected by District, your District, and must come to you, your District's residents and her/his neighbors for their votes. Elected officials are also more apt to know you personally. Conceivably now, if an At Large City Councilor is not responsive to your issue or concern, she/he can go to another area or areas of the city for support/votes for reelection. Having lived here for over 21 years, that has happened to me a few times when there has been an unresponsive elected.

In communities where there has been some reluctance to make this change, it has sometimes been because an elected official's core supporters are in an area in which this official does not reside. That shouldn't be a deterrent to embracing this one direct form of government.

Thank you.

Penny Maynard  
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Agenda Item No. 23

2/20/18